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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/873,943	06/04/2001	Alexander Lisheng Huang	8285/412	3353
7590	03/11/2004			EXAMINER
Vincent J. Gnoffo BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P. O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610			DEANE JR, WILLIAM J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2642	
			DATE MAILED: 03/11/2004 6	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/873,943	HUANG ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	William J Deane	2642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 27-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 27-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 2642

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the voice path using digital signal processing and packet transmission and all claimed method steps must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s).

This is not an exhaustive list, but is meant only as examples of the types of problems that exist.

No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 27 – 30 and 33 – 36, 39 – 45, 48 and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,310,939 (Varney).

Art Unit: 2642

With respect to claims 27 – 30 and 33 – 36, 39 – 45, 48 and 52, Varney teaches the claimed limitations (See Figs. 1 - 2, Abstract and Col.2, line 1 – Col. 3, line 55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 31 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Varney in view of the instant application.

With respect to claims 31 and 49, applicant admits that one of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate that a voice path could be implemented in other ways, such as digital signal processing (Page 8, lines 2 – 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated such digital signal processing into the Varney device and method, as such would only entail the substitution of one known means for another.

Claims 32, 37 – 38, 46 – 47, and 50 – 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Varney in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0108172 (Petty et al.).

With respect to claims 32 and 50, note that Petty et al. teach the claimed limitation (see Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided packet voice transmissions and processing as taught by Petty et al. into the Varney device and method, as such would make the system more flexible.

Art Unit: 2642

With respect to claims 37 – 38 and 46 – 47, it is noted that the making an integral device separable or vice –a-versa carries no patentable weight.

With respect to claim 51, such a limitation is inherent in Petty et al. and reads on the notoriously old in the art hook-flash.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

U.S. Patent No. 6,639,972 (Cannon et al.) – note Abstract;

U.S. Patent No. 6,529,587 (Cannon et al.) – note Abstract;

U.S. Patent No. 6,493,423 (Blum et al.) – note Abstract;

U.S. Patent No. 6,021,176 (McKendry et al.) – note Abstract; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0076007 (Gibson et al.).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bill Deane whose telephone number is (703) 306-5838. In addition, facsimile transmissions should be directed to Bill Deane at facsimile number (703) 872-9306.

06Mar04


WILLIAM J. DEANE, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER